(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to ensuring remnunerative prices to the cotton growers in the country, the Union Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) for increasing productivity and production of cotton in major cotton growing State. Under the scheme assistance is producion and distribution of of quality seeds, organising demonstrations of improved technology, plant protection measures, supply of sprinkler sets etc.

Deaths due to mishap at Meenampatti

763. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons died in a worse disaster when a factory at Meenampatti in Tamil Nadu was burnt;

(b) if so, the number of the persons killed and those injured in the mishap; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, made by Government and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, a fire accident took place in the Dawn Amorces Fire Works in Anuppankulam near Meenampatti village, Sivakasi on 12.7.91 in which 39 (Thirty nine) persons died and 65 (Sixty five) persons were injured.

(c) The report of the inquiry officer appointed by Government of Tamil Nadu to go into the causes and circumstances under which the said accident took place has not yet been received.

Accidents in the major ports

764. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of accidents which took place in the major ports during the last three years;

(b) the extent of loss to property and human lives in those accidents;

(c) the reasons of those accidents; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The information regarding injuries and loss of human lives is given in the statement enclosed. (See below)

The information regarding the extent of loss to property is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) These accidents were caused due to defects in the lifting machinery and gear, the transport equipment, and handling of cargo, stepping on or striking against objects, fall of persons etc.

(d) The provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in ports and docks are contained in the Dock Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, l986 and the rules and the regulations framed thereunder. These provisions are enforced by Inspectorates of Dock Safety Frequent inspection of ships, lifting machinery, cargo handling equipment etc. conduct of training